

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION SALE OF NAVAL
VESSELS TO SPAIN.

REF: JUSMG/MAAG SPAIN DTG 100957Z AUG 76

1. I WISH TO DRAW THE DEPT'S ATTENTION TO THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, WHICH REPORTS THE STRONG REJECTION BY THE SPANISH CNO OF THE FOUR MSO'S (MINESWEEPERS) OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE SPANISH NAVY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8 OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT 7 OF THE NEW TREATY. (TWO OF THE FOUR SHIPS OFFERED ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN REJECTED 6 YEARS AGO IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1970 AGREEMENT.)

2. AS ALL OF US WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THIS TREATY ARE PAINFULLY AWARE, THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN SPAIN-- WHICH HAS INDEED GROWN TO THE PROPORTIONS OF A LEGEND THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED POOR QUALITY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SPAIN UNDER THE TERMS OF OUR PAST AGREEMENTS. I WOULD REGARD IT AS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IF WE WERE TO LAUNCH THE NEW TREATY ON THE BASIS OF THIS KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE SPANISH NAVY. TO DO SO WOULD MAKE IT SIGNIFICANTLY

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MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO ARGUE PERSUASIVELY THAT IT IS OUR

INTENTION TO FULFILL THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE LETTER OF THE
TREATY IN ENTERING INTO AN IMPROVED AND CLOSER RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE SPANISH MILITARY FORCES.

3. IN A EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP, THE U.S. NAVY HAS
RECENTLY OFFERED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR THE SPANISH NAVY'S
SEA CONTROL SHIP CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND HAS OFFERED CLOSER
COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE INCERTAIN OPERATIONAL AREAS. IN
THIS SAME SPIRIT, I HOPE THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO
OFFER THE SPANISH NAVY MINESWEEPER WHICH ARE
FIT FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS.
STABLER

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